

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 266571

71-60

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-09 /022 R

666

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EA/J:\$*SMITH

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R 111455Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS STATE 266571

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT TOKYO 15895, SENT USERDA, INFO SECSTATE
NOV 6:

QUOTE UNCLAS TOKYO 15895

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH JA

SUBJECT: USSR-JAPAN NUCLEAR HARDWARE NEGOTIATIONS

1. NOVEMBER 6 MAINIHI (JAPANESE EDITION) CARRIED AN ARTICLE
INDICATING THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE
JAPANESE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY ON THE SALE OF EQUIPMENT EXCEPT CORES
FOR TEN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT A VALUE OF ABOUT US \$1.6B.

2. THE SOVIET UNION REPORTEDLY PLAN TO CONSTRUCT 1,000 MWE
NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE EUROPEAN SECTOR
OF THE COUNTRY. LATE LAST YEAR, THE SOVIET UNION SOUNDED OUT
JAPANESE INDUSTRY ABOUT IMPORTING SOME OF THOSE PLANTS. EARLY
LAST AUGUST, DELEGATES FROM THE INDUSTRY INFORMALLY NEGOTIATED
AT MOSCOW. THE JAPANESE DELEGATES TO MOSCOW WERE FROM MHI,
IHI, HITACHI, JAPAN STEEL MFG. AND FUJI ELECTRIC. THE SOVIET
SIDE PROPOSED THAT JAPAN PREPARE REACTOR PRESSURE
VESSELS, EQUIPMENT INCIDENTAL TO THE REACTOR CORES STEAM
GENERATORS PIPES, VALVES AND PUMPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
DETAILED DESIGNS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE SOVIET SIDE. THE FIVE
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JAPANESE COMPANIES HAVE RECENTLY CONCLUDED THAT THEY WILL BE

TECHNICALLY CAPABLE OF MEETING THE SOVIET REQUIREMENTS. THE JAPANESE INDUSTRY IS OF THE VIEW THAT THE SOVIET OFFER IS BASED ON THE NEED FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO SECURE ENERGY UNDER THE TENTH FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (STARTING NEXT YEAR) WITHOUT REDUCING EXPORTS TO EAST EUROPE.

3. THE PROBLEMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) THE SOVIET UNION IS CONTACTING WEST GERMANY, TOO. THERE WILL MOST LIKELY BE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION.

(2) NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EQUIPMENT IS SUBJECT TO COCOM REGULATIONS.

(3) U.S. TECHNOLOGY IS INVOLVED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT.

ON 2 ABOVE, THE JAPANESE INDUSTRY BELIEVES THAT THERE WILL BE NO TRANSFER OF US TECHNOLOGY INTO THE SOVIET UNION SINCE (1) US TECHNOLOGY HAS ALREADY BEEN DIGESTED INTO JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY, AND (2) THE ORDER WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOVIET DETAILED DESIGNS. AS FOR THE THIRD POINT, THE INDUSTRY POINTS OUT THAT THE COCOM REGULATIONS ARE ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT SYSTEMS AS A WHOLE AND NOT ON SPECIFIC PARTS. THE FIVE JAPANESE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY GROUPS ARE GOING TO ESTABLISH A SETUP UNDER WHICH THEY WILL JOINTLY ACCEPT THE SOVIET ORDER AND UNDERTAKE MANUFACTURING ON A DIVISION-OF-WORK BASIS. HODGSON UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SALES, EQUIPMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE266571
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/CE:RBCASAGRANDE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750392-0645
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751157/aaaabzog.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 NOV 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USSR-JAPAN NUCLEAR HARDWARE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: TECH, JA, UR
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006